

# PERCHLOROETHYLENE RISK EVALUATION

## ISSUE SUMMARY:

Perchloroethylene (PCE) has a wide-range of uses, including in the production of fluorinated compounds, as a solvent in dry cleaning and vapor degreasing, and in a number of commercial and consumer products, including adhesives. PCE was selected as one of the first ten chemicals that EPA is developing risk evaluations for under TSCA as amended by the Lautenberg Act. The draft risk evaluation has already been reviewed by the Scientific Advisory Committee on Chemicals (SACC) and is currently being revised for final publication.

## UPCOMING MILESTONES:

- Late October 2020: Inter- and intra-agency review of the draft Final Risk Evaluation
- December 2020: Publication of the Final Risk Evaluation for PCE. Any uses that are found to present unreasonable risks to the environment or health will move into risk management

## BACKGROUND:

The PCE draft risk evaluation was released for public comment on May 4, 2020 and the SACC public peer review meeting was held on May 26-29, 2020. EPA is currently revising the draft risk evaluation based on the SACC recommendations and public comments. EPA evaluated the risks for 68 conditions of use (COUs) in the draft risk evaluation and made the preliminary determination that 2 manufacturing, 7 processing, 19 industrial, 18 commercial, 9 consumer, and 1 disposal COUs present an unreasonable risk to the environment or unreasonable risk of injury to health. The draft risk evaluation concluded risks associated with acute exposures include non-cancer effects including neurotoxicity, immunotoxicity, kidney, liver, and blood, and developmental effects following chronic exposures. PCE is considered “likely to be carcinogenic in humans” based on conclusive evidence in animals and suggestive evidence in humans. Major issues that will be addressed in the final risk evaluation include revisions to the PBPK model, non-cancer hazards, and cancer modes of action discussion; revisions of the dermal assessment based on additional data, and incorporation of trend analysis for PCE release and monitoring data.

## KEY EXTERNAL STAKEHOLDERS:

☒ Congress
 ☒ Industry
 ☒ States
 ☒ Tribes
 ☐ Media
 ☒ Other Federal Agency  
☒ NGO
 ☒ Local Government
 ☒ Other: Other EPA offices

Industry groups, environmental and health NGOs, and states, tribes, federal agencies and local governments have provided comments on the draft risk evaluation.

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## MOVING FORWARD:

EPA is conducting some additional analyses based on SACC and public comments, which are expected to be completed in the fall of 2020. EPA will revise the risk estimates included in the final risk evaluation and develop responses to the SACC recommendations and public comments.

LEAD OFFICE/REGION: OCSP

OTHER KEY OFFICES/REGIONS: ORD, OGC, OCHP, OP,  
OECA, OLEM, OAR, Regions